



LEMKE'S CHIMPS

East Coast Notes

by FRANK ROBIE

Buffalo Bill and the Wild West exhibition is showing at the Brooklyn Museum until Jan. 17th, sponsored by Philip Morris and Seven-Up. The exhibition includes memorabilia of William Cody and paintings, posters, prints and sculpture of the Old West. From Brooklyn the exhibit goes to Pittsburgh, Pa. where it will be on display from Feb. 13 to April 4th. Buffalo Bill and the Wild West is a joint project of the Brooklyn Museum, the Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute and the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. Advertising has appeared in the New York Times, Saturday Review, U. S. News & World Report. A slick 16 page throw-away with color cover and eleven black-and-white photos makes a nice collectors item.

When the Ringling show played the Byrne Meadowland Arena in E. Rutherford, NJ for the first time much local publicity was taken with the fact that it has been 60 years since the Big One played New Jersey. The 14 day stand was pronounced financially satisfactory if not quite up to earlier estimates.

The arena itself was given an over-whelmingly good rating by the personnel for its ample dressing room facilities and indoor capacity to house the animals and vans with the show.

Wally Naghtin's six year old Syrian bear gave birth to twin cubs just before the show opened at the Meadowland Arena. They were doing nicely during our cold spell in Wally's trailer.

Frank Curry, former vice president, visited RBBB during the NJ run and was happily received by old friends.

For about two weeks a group of photographers from GEO photo magazine was permitted to photograph the Big One and the report is that there will be an eight page spread in the March issue. If you can find one on your newstand it goes for \$4.00. For those not familiar with the magazine it is Fortune size and Life-Look kind of publication. About 400 snaps were taken each day and there is talk of a book next fall.

June Dewsbury flew to Houston, Texas, for a Christmas vacation and to visit with

The PBA Circus

by PHIL MOYER

One of the finest circuses during the 1981 season played Leesburg and Orlando, Fla., produced by Ron Morris, of Sarasota. All equipment for the three day event was on lease from the Roberts Bros. Circus.

Acts for this great show were: Opening by Florine Oler and Greg Toga; Announcer Carmen Johnson; and then on with the show. The Juggling Jewels; Hahsini, sword balancing and then the great Kay Rosaire, leopards and tigers; Carmen Johnson, balancing trapeze; Jeff Earls dog act; Ian Craig, military ponies; Danny Chapman & Co., clowns; Hunky Johnson, whips; Coloring Book Pitch; Ben Williams and the great Anna May; Intermission.

Hunky Johnson and his bears; The Almost Human Gorilla, Hans Klosse; Miss Carol, contortion; The Young Troupe, teeterboard; Lisa Johnson, cloud swing; Ben Williams and the Woodcock Elephants.

The staff included Ron Morris, producer; Jeff Earl, boss canvasman; Doris Earl, side wall supt.; Lolly Young, prop boss; Teresa and Bobby Earl, concessions.

Visitors included Harry Hammond, Mary Jo Couls, Gopher Davenport, Whitey Black, Sam Polack, Ron Bacon, Jackie and Sherry Burke, Larry Almond, Mark Anthony, the Many Ramos Family and many others from Sarasota.

After a great day on the 12th Ron put on a super party for all in the big top, but one question Ron, you forgot to turn on the heat.

Miscellaneous

The Lou Jacobs and Family CFA tent is presently organizing in Stone Mountain, Ga. under the direction of Phil Moyer and their program looks to be a very active one. CFAs are invited to join and can write Phil Moyer, P. O. Box 1386, Stone Mountain, Ga. 30086.

friends she made there while her late husband was in intensive care at the Houston Hospital many years ago.

Show Dates

Brickle's Wonderland Cir.

Jan 11-12 Kinstree, NC

13 Lake City

14 Mullins

15 Florence

18 Scranton/Cwrds

19-21 Lake City

22-23 Batesburg

Circus America

to Feb 14 Mexico City,
Mexico

Great Circus of China

Jan 22-31 Toronto, Ont.
Canada

Ringling-Barnum - Blue

Jan 5-11 St. Petersburg,
Fla.

Zerbini/Castle Circus

to Jan 24 Flint, Mich.

Circus Vargas

Jan. 22 San Diego, Calif.
1982 opening day

The picture of the elephants and Rose Bowl float in CR on Jan. 11th, was misidentified. The elephants pictured are owned by Howard Johnson and the two handlers shown are Tex Goetsche and Wally Ross.

BRAVERY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT !!!

BY JOHN GAIZICK

Young David McMillan has been playing around with his wild animal friends since he was a kid back in Liverpool, England. By the time David was 14, he was professionally working his already acquired "tricks of the trade." Today he considers his career a labor of love - "These animals are my life as well as my work. They have done a lot for me, and I would like to repay them in some way. Animals are getting the short end of the stick in every society in the world."

For the first time in history, David is presenting his fabulous Flying Tiger Act at Circus World, Orlando, Florida. This master of the Big Cage headlines the parks most popular show - 'Circus Spectacular', a large scale production which features 40 internationally famous entertainers. The show is the largest live circus of it's kind in any theme park in the world. It beautifully depicts grand American circus tradition, grace and grandeur - all under the watchful McMillan eye, as David also serves as the 'Circus Spectacular's' Performance Director.

At age 14, David ran away and joined a circus in his native Liverpool. He remembers it as - "All very dull. The circus had lights, girls, music and people speaking in foreign languages. I told them I was 16 and was hired as a roustabout. It was rough and I wished I hadn't run away from home. When the show was on it was exciting, but at the end of the day the music, lights and girls were gone."

The sixties were spent all over Europe, gaining a reputation of being a reliable, hard worker with a number of circuses. That reputation paid off for him, as he landed a position as assistant to Gunther Williams, who then headed the European Circus Williams. When Ringling bought that circus and brought it to America, David stayed on as Williams' assistant.

"We were in Houston in 1970 when Gunther's wife had a baby boy," relates David. "I knew then that the law of the circus would take over and the act would go to Gunther's son. I wasn't angry - that's the way of the circus. I just walked away."

Ending his eight year association - with \$40 to his name and dreams of starting his

own wild animal act - David journeyed to Los Angeles, Calif. For months he filled out unemployment forms, slept in the bus terminal and worked as a dishwasher. He ate snacks every afternoon at a 'fancy French restaurant' in posh Beverly Hills that had "free food" during happy hour.

The big break came via a veterinarian whose specialty was treating big cats. The vet introduced David to the owners of Japanese Village, a theme park in Buena Park, Calif., near Disneyland. Park owners bought three tigers for him and his act was so successful that David quit working his odd job and concen-



trated on becoming the best animal trainer in the world.

When the park closed, David bought the tigers, moved to another amusement park in California - then he created much attention by appearing on TV's "Saturday Night Live" performing his act. He then spent several seasons at Great Adventure Park in Jackson Township, New Jersey. From there he moved his act into Resorts International Hotel in Atlantic City where he starred in their revue entitled "Boardwalk Magic."

(Continued on Page 23)

Speaking of

by JIM PARKER

Johnny Herriott did it! The Annual Sarasota Showfolks Circus is about the only circus in the country where normally the audience of circus greats outdazzles what is performing in the ring; however, under the very capable direction of Johnny Herriott, this year's Showfolk's Circus at the Roberts Arena in Sarasota was one of the finest ever produced. John was Ringmaster as well as Producer and everyone in the business knows his eloquent verbal presentations and he was at his top during the Dec. 5th showdate.

The lineup included: The Juggling Droguetts; Payo Nock, low wire; clowns Alfredo Landon, Mike Padilla, Danny Chapman, Belia and Bill Smith; Mary Ruth and her Poodles; Mario Wallenda and Monica, hanging perch; The Lucky Bros. (Zerbini) comedy knock-about; Sir Phillip Anthony's liberty horses; the Del Morals, perch; Ben Williams and Anna Mae and Mickey; Intermission.

The Welde Bears; Heidi Herriott, single trapeze; Tino, rola bola; Max Shamberti, dog bull fight; the Alleys teeterboard troupe the Justino Loyal Troupe, bareback riders; the Great Wallendas, high wire; and the Woodcock Performing Elephants presented by Barbara Woodcock.

Special guests of honor included Mr. and Mrs. Lou Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. Merle Evans, Mrs. Helen Wallenda, Mr. Gunther Wallenda, Mrs. Katherine Hanneford, Mr. Tommy Hanneford, Mr. Daviso Cristiani and Mr. Oscar Cristiani.

Upon completion of the Justino Loyal Riding Act, Mr. Herriott called representatives from the three greatest riding acts in the world into the ring for acknowledgement, which included Justino Loyal and family, Mrs. Kate Hanneford and Tommy Hanneford, and Daviso and Oscar Cristiani. Also the grandchildren of Helen Wallenda and the late Karl Wallenda performed their own version of the pyramid on the high wire on bikes and it was a very emotional time for Helen and her brother-in-law, Gunther.

As always, Ben Williams and Anna Mae pleased old tanbark veterans as well as first of Mays and fans, but Barbara Woodcock

was absolutely classic as she closed the show with the Woodcock elephants. What a showgirl . . . her wardrobe was just fantastic and done in turquoise to bring out the bulls, etc.

Jerry Collins attended the "show of shows" and of course just his mere presence continued to add to the many rumors about the 1982 season for the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus. There are a jillion stories coming from all over and mum seems to be the word regarding just what will take place for the C-B future.

Many kinkers have signed contracts for the 1982 tented version and are experiencing anxiety over whether they will be good for the indoor show, etc., if in fact it goes indoors, so there is much confusion and no mention made of its future when Johnny Herriott introduced Mr. Collins to the audience.

Another show girl of beauty in the ring was Mary Ruth who wore beautiful bright blue sequined wardrobe in her dog act, assisted by daughter Cindy in matching wardrobe. Heidi had an all silver sequined cape for her entrance into the ring for her single trapeze presentation so between the three of them I doubt if there is a single sequin left in the Sarasota area.

Johnny truly gathered a show of professionals for professionals. One would think the entire audience moved from Roberts Arena after the show to the Sarasota Showfolks Club after the evening performance as it was wall-to-wall kinkers. Johnny is their newly elected President so their Club has every right to be so proud of this year's star studded show.

Shrine Date

Acts listed for the Flint, Mich., Shrine Circus engagement, Jan. 16-24 include:

Benicis, trampoline; the Hawthorn Tigers; Billy Barton, cloud swing; Miss Barbara, Miss Loni and Miss Rosa, foot juggling display; Camels and Llamas; Performing Pigs; The Starlords, motorcycle on high wire; Los Navajos and Los Commanches, juggling; Johnny Luxem and his "Wheel of Destiny"; the Burger Chimpanzees; Aerial Ballet with

(Continued on Page 21)

The English Tenting Season of 1981

by JACK NIBLETT

The last week of November signified the end of the Tenting Season for English Circuses, Richard Chipperfield's Circus playing at Enfield, near London, being the last show to pull into winterquarters.

The season of 1981 will not be remembered with much affection by our circus proprietors. The deepening recession with all its attendant problems, an abundance of bad weather and some civil disturbances all made the season a hard, unrewarding one. The R.S.P.C.A.'s massive attack on circuses with animals undoubtedly had deleterious effects on attendances, although in some cases this attack was derided by circus-goers.

Our biggest new circus, David Smart's Super Circus did not open this summer. The splendid tent with its elegant fittings was used for fashion shows, wrestling and pop concerts and then dismantled. There will be no Christmas circus under canvas this year.

Gerry Cottle's new venture, the "Rainbow Circus" did not get the audiences it deserved and folded after a few weeks. Gerry then took out a "Rock and Roll Circus," with a former Pop star, Gary Glitter, but this proved to be even more of a disaster. Late in the season Gerry took a small circus unit out to the Middle East, and I understand that this venture was a success.

There were some bright spots in this troubled year. Robert Bros. and the Hoffman family took their circuses to the North of England and to Scotland where the business was much better than in the South. Hoffman's second unit, "Circus Holiday" was also in the North to begin the season, then concentrated on the South Coast seaside resorts, where eventually the sun shone and business was quite good. At the end of their Northern England tour, Hoffman's went with their larger show to Ireland, where despite the "troubles" they are still there and doing some very good business.

Several of our circuses were to be found around the Southern coastal resorts, although this normally crowded holiday area suffered, this year, with bad weather and a shortage of spending money. At times there were three circuses bearing the name of

Chipperfield in adjacent towns, somewhat puzzling for the would-be patrons.

Richard Chipperfield moved from his opening Midland dates southwards. His daughter, Sally, with her husband Jim Clubb were also operating in the same area, while often not far away was the show called Jimmy Chipperfield's Circus World, but which is actually the Austen Brothers Circus, the brothers having acquired the Chipperfield title for a couple of seasons. Business was very mixed for all these shows. Sir Robert Fossett's Circus played the "Home Counties" and Greater London area, and I am told they had a satisfactory season.

The smaller circuses such as Gandy's, James Bros., Perrier and Weight's all appeared to be making a living, although the going was not easy. One small show Fossett Bros., a veteran of many years, did not go out this summer, mostly due to illness and the ageing of the proprietors.

The "hybrid" Fossfield's Circus tented for a short early season, this year, and then the proprietor Tom Fossett and some of the company moved into the Great Yarmouth Hippodrome Circus, a permanent circus building, newly refurbished, where Tom became chief clown and company manager for the rest of a highly successful stand.

Binder's Circus moved back into the country of its roots, Scotland and did good business in the smaller towns and communities.

The small "horse-drawn" circus of Peter Jolly had to revert to more modern means of propulsion, it being found that modern road conditions and distances between circus grounds were too much for the horses.

Circus Hassani which relies upon "human skills" and is therefore the "pet" of the RSPCA had a good season with often full houses, but this was only to be expected as they were a "free attraction" at the Chessington Zoo, Surrey.

The Circus World Championships were once again held at Fulham, London, under the Robert Bros. big six pole tent in November. This event has now become a two-day affair, largely television slanted, and attracted big crowds for the exciting com-

(Continued on Page 19)

Windjammers Meet

by DON SANDMAN

The Annual Convention of Windjammers is going to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, or to be more accurate, in Fort Mitchell, Ky., just across the bridge from Cincinnati.

The Holiday Inn, Cincinnati South (in Ft. Mitchell, Ky) will be the official headquarters. The dates are Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, and it is going to be a music packed weekend.

The agenda as of now will be: Thursday, Jan. 28th, 7 to 10 p.m. first recording session. Friday, Jan. 29th, 9 a.m. to 12 noon second recording session. 2 to 5 p.m. third recording session. 7 to 10 p.m. fourth recording session.

Saturday, Jan. 30th, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. fifth recording session. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. sixth and final recording session. 3 to 5 p.m. reception and cocktails, Firemen's Museum, 311 W. Court St., Cincinnati, Ohio (with CFA members invited to attend); 6:30 to 7 p.m. Banquet cocktail hour, 7 to 9:30 p.m. Banquet and Program.

Sunday, Jan. 31st, 9 a.m. Breakfast and Business Meeting.

A variety of music, waltzes, overtures, intermetzcos, ragtime, fox trots, is promised. The music library is being furnished by Trustee Douglas MacLeod. There may also be a Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey spec, courtesy of the Circus World Museum Library.

The Cincinnati Fire Museum is located in the restored 1907 Court Street Firehouse, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The exact address being 311 West Court Street. The Museum's collection represents the fire fighting history of Cincinnati from the very first volunteer fire company formed in 1808 to the present day. The Windjammers have invited the CFA to

this event.

Co-chairmen of the convention, Past President Francis Simler and former publicity director George Keller, say they have a music-packed weekend and the Banquet Speaker will be Paul Bierley, giving a special talk on John Philip Sousa.

Following the Cincinnati convention those who can will travel to Corydon, Ind., to listen to or participate in the Eighth Annual Corydon Circus Concert, sponsored by Ward Stauth and the Harrison County Soil and Water Conservation District. Rehearsals on Monday, Feb. 1st, 7 p.m. sharp. The concert will be Tuesday evening, Feb. 2nd at the Corydon Grade School Auditorium at 7 p.m.

Sarasota Show

The annual Shrine New Years Eve Party in Sarasota, Fla., was once again produced by Bill Kay. The program featured Keith Killinger and band, Crista Dubsky's Poodle Revue, Valarie Guzman, aerial (daughter of Carla Wallenda), The Zerbis, acrobatics, The Hauks, juggling, Michael Ashton and Leslie, risley and Bill Kay, M.C.

Sarasota now has its own Shrine Temple, called the Sahib Temple. Potentate Howard Noble announced to the New Years Eve crowd of some 480 people, that Sarasota's first ever Shrine Circus will be held Oct. 15-16 at the Circus Dome at Sarasota High School, and the circus will be produced by Bill Kay who will also handle the promotion. Potentate Noble, said that it had been a 100% agreement on the part of the Temple officers to retain William Kay Productions for the circus.

Tour Info

The Wonderland Circus Revue closed its 1981 tour at Bowman, SC, on Dec. 18th, and reported that attendance and concessions had scored well throughout the ten week tour. However, an overloaded performance budget cut heavily into the show's net profits.

Sponsors highly praised the show which featured: Miss Constanca (Connie Dam), uncaged leopards and jaguar; Clowns headed by Rick Jackson, Jr.; Michael Aston, foot juggling with Leslie, Popeye and Olive comedy spoof with Harold Simmons, Freddy White, aerial; Bill Brickle's Poodles; Moments in Mystery Illusions, Contortion by Mister Devon, Digger Boxing Kangaroo with Helga Dam, the Morgan Ashton Family, risley acrobats, and Jack and Wilma Rench, concessions.

Visitors included the Lee Stevens Duo with Lee and Steve (Champaign Poodles), Jerry and Helg Wight, Mr. and Mrs. John Kustick, Mrs. Mary Brickle and friends, the Nordmark show and band with Lee Ketchums, Dave Epperly, DeMille and Debbie and several others.

The new 1982 Wonderland Circus Revue tour opened Jan. 11th at Kingtree, SC with many new features including: the Eddie Steeple performing bears, Prince Ramon Valdez, aerial, Lee Fong, Oriental illusions, Rick Jackson, Jr., heading clown alley, Bill Brickle's Poodle Fantasy, Indian aerial spectacular with Freddy White, Mdme. Steeple, bird act, bicycle act with Master Steeple and rofa bola. Jack and Wilma Rench continue with the show handling concessions. The tour is scheduled to run for six weeks.

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Do You Remember?

by TED AKEMAN

Cole & Walters Circus, 1951 season - Herb Walters, owner and manager; Tom McLaughlin, agent; Helen Walters and Don McLaughlin, office.

Red Foker was lot supt.; Jack and George Bell had the band and Mildred Welbes was the organist. Frank Ellis had the concessions and Ernest Wiggins had the banners.

Among the acts were: Bob Grubbs, liberty horses and menage horses; Max Craig Family, posing and balancing; Jackson Duo, bars and trampoline; Chief Keyes, knife throwing Happy Wood and Don Haydon, clowns; Wayne Newman's posing horses; Shirley Walters and Rosie Wright, ladders; The Wrights, ring act.

Charlie Rex was boss prop man; Joe Wright had the side show, and Teresa Morales with toe and heel catches on the trapeze was featured in the big show.

Circus Italia

by BILL WALTERS

Alberto Zoppe's Circus Italia presented a fine show in Little Rock (Ark) on Dec. 15 under the sponsorship of the Greater Little Rock Optimist Club. This was the second year for the Zoppe's to present the annual Children's Christmas show. The show was presented in the Convention Auditorium and was a very fine, well-paced program of an hour and a half.

The line-up consisted of: Nino Zoppe's audience warm-up (Dino is one of the best young performers in the circus); The Connors Duo, unicycle act; Carla Zoppe did a fine acrobatic bareback act as Princess Natashia; Nino followed with a comedy bareback routine (very funny and skillfully done); Miss Malinda (Gypsy), ladder juggling routine, followed by Nino's comedy juggling; Carmen Hall, baboons, well staged, costumed and presented. This act featured some very good routines, including a motorcycle ride; David Connors, assisted by Sissy, did a very good juggling rola bola routine.

After Tosca's (8 yrs old) and Nino's clown routine, the Famous Zoppe Animal Fantasia closed the show. This is a very good act and is always well received by the audience. When you see Nino, 12 dogs, a cat, duck and a chicken on the back of one Appaloosa horse you can not help but be entertained.

The show had a very good audience and the sponsors were well pleased with Circus Italia.

Acts

Acts featured in the Christmas Show at Warrior Coliseum in Grand Prairie, Texas, on Dec. 19th were:

Joe Schmitt, Jr., master of ceremonies; Los Imitatos, dancing dolls; Joe Schmitt, Jr., clowning and magic; Peyton & Raye, dogs; Lemke's College of Chimps, plus Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.

Music was provided by organist Leonard Olson.

Christmas Show

by BOB SWANEY

Braving 15 degree temperatures, hundreds of youngsters and their parents jammed into Omaha's (Nebr) Music Hall to witness Big John Strong's Annual Christmas Show on Friday, Dec. 18th.

Singing MC Al Leonard kept the show rolling at an excellent pace. Clown Alley consisted of Phil (Flippo) Kavanaugh, Rosa Maria (Chryssi) Douglass and Judy (Tulip) Leonard.

Featured acts were The Keppo Duo, rolling globes; Flippo and Chryssi in 'Watch Repair' (these two always work so well together); Cainan's Canines; Flippo, Chryssi and Tulip in 'Long Distance Call'; Holveck & Co., illusions (including a difficult and perfectly executed Metamorphosis); Curtis Cainan, low wire (his jump through the lariat produced many oohs and aahs); The Boothroyds, comedy pantomime (this class act had the audience standing up with laughter); Flippo and Chryssi, juggling and unicycle.

The Finale consisted of all the performers on stage to welcome Santa Claus who was "produced" by Holveck.

This was another of Big John's something for everyone show and no one was disappointed.

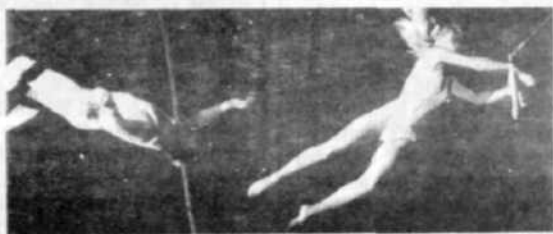
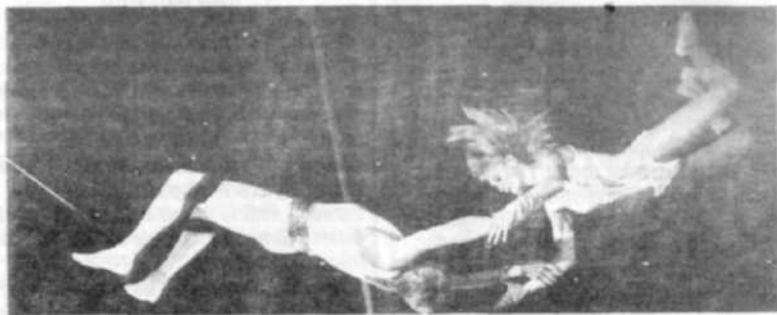
Holiday Feature

Appearing at Harrah's Marina Hotel Casino (Atlantic City, NJ) for the Executive Christmas Party on Dec. 15-16 were:

Mike Naughton & Co., strolling clowns, featuring Middy Streeter and Coco Leigh; Mike Naughton's Magical Mirthquake (30 minutes of comedy magic) was featured at the Children's Christmas Party on Dec. 21st in the main showroom.

Both engagements were handled through the Gilbert Miller Agency.

CIRCUS OF THE STARS WITH TOP TV STARS



Popular TV stars who took part in the Flying Trapeze segment of the most recent television feature "Circus of the Stars" are seen in the above photographs.

In the two top pictures you see Randi Oakes, of "Chips" as she is caught by the catcher, Bob Yerkes, and then as she returns to the flying bar to head back for the platform, after successfully completing an aerial trick.

Other TV personalities who performed on the Flying Trapeze were Andrew Stevens, of "Code Red", and Todd Bridges and Dana Plato, both of "Different Strokes."

Beth Nufer, a circus pro and stunt girl as-

sisted the flyers on the platform.

Posing especially for the camera in a state of shock (lower left photo) are Andrew Stevens, Randi Oakes and Todd Bridges.

Mattel Report

The following information has been taken from Mattel, Inc. report to its stockholders for the nine months ending Oct. 31, 1981. To completely understand the Mattel position one should carefully read the entire report.

"... Net income for the quarter was \$20,289,000, a 47% increase over the same period last year, on a 28% gain in net sales to \$373,527,000."

"... The Entertainment segment narrowed operating losses in the third quarter. Attendance increases at the traveling circus and ice shows more than offset declines at our Circus World theme park, which suffered from reduced tourism levels in central Florida."

"... Revenues of the Entertainment segment were 9% higher than fiscal 1981 due primarily to higher attendance levels at the traveling circuses (7%) and the Ice Shows (11%). Revenues were 2% lower at Circus World due to lower attendance."

"... The decline in revenues of the Entertainment segment was due primarily to the absence of revenues from the Monte Carlo one-ring circus which was discontinued at the end of its foreign tour in fiscal 1981 and lower attendance levels at the traveling circuses (9%), Ice Shows (5%) and Circus World (20%). Reduced attendance at the circuses and Ice Shows is believed to be attributable to ticket price increases and the economy. The Circus World attendance suffered from reduced tourism levels in central Florida."

"... The Entertainment segment's lower operating profit was caused principally by the absence of the Monte Carlo circus and the combination of lower nine-month attendance levels and the fairly fixed nature of the operating expenses of these operations."



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HOTLINE

Jan. 1 - The saddle and spurs of cowboy star Rex Allen were stolen from the Cochise Visitor Center and Museum at Wilcox, Ariz. They were valued at \$42,000.

Jan. 4 - a 175 lb. pet tiger disappeared during the California rainstorm from its private residence at La Honda, Calif., just a few miles south of San Francisco.

Jan. 5 - National news wire services reported that Jerry Collins, owner of the Beatty-Cole Circus has donated the entire show to the Florida State University.



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A Dec. 21st cruise of the Queen Elizabeth 2 featured Uri Geller as entertainer. Hmm, bet he started the watches the passengers brought along.

On a Lou Grant episode in which Grant played the part of a magician watching for trickery at a seance, he did the spoon bending trick, ala Geller.

Also on recent TV, Harry Blackstone played the villain on a Hart to Hart episode. On that same evening Jerry Andrus appeared on the show Omni.

Japanese magicians will soon have the complete Tarbell Course in their own language. Tenyo, which has already made the first 6 volumes available, has just finished Vol. 7 which will be ready for release this year.

Reports are that duplicates from Milbourne Christopher's collection, recently sold by Swann Galleries, brought in some \$72,959. Some treasures went for very little, while other items created a great deal of bidding. One large Houdini poster went for \$950.

Henry Banderob who retired as head of the San Jose (Cal) Merchants Assoc. in '67 died at Hemet, Calif. on Dec. 18th. He was 85. He and his wife, Norma, were popular figures in west coast magic until she died in 1968, shortly after they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Circus Tax

by DAVID SCHEEN

(From the Sarasota (Fla) Herald-Tribune of Dec. 23, 1981).

The Sarasota County Property Appraisal Adjustment Board voted Tuesday (Dec. 22) to sustain Property Appraiser John Mikos in the county's \$2,006,500 assessment of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus' private railroad cars.

The hearing master, attorney George Browning, submitted a report to the board that said the evidence was the same as in November, when the adjustment board upheld his recommendation for the tangible personal property tax on the railroad cars and for Ringling Bros.' animals and equipment taken on tour.

Ringling Bros. attorney Granville Crabtree asked the adjustment board to rescind its decision on the railroad cars.

Ringling Bros. this month sued Property Appraiser Mikos and County Tax Collector Rebecca Eger over taxation of touring property.

A companion suit was filed for Hagenbeck-Wallace, Inc. over the county's \$1,556,480 assessment on the costumes that it supplied to Ringling Bros.

Crabtree contended in the suit that the 1979 Legislature exempted the circus property from local tangible personal property taxation if the circus was not located in the county 12 months a year.

The county appraiser's office regards the railroad cars, animals and equipment and costumes as having their home base in Venice.

Ringling Bros. has appealed to the adjustment board on tangible personal property tax since 1972.

Henry, at the demand of friends, compiled a booklet that had small tricks, quips and stunts, a variety of small entertaining bits, called "Oddities and Funnies."

We, Magic Limited, got permission to reprint it and have sold many for just \$1.00. Although slowed by arthritis, Henry actively surveyed the magic field, and kept his friends supplied with clippings of magic interest.

Florida Visit

by 'Circus Joe' Valenciano

On Dec. 30th I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Dwight Damon, while he was in Florida on a business trip. Owners of one of New England's busiest talent agencies, Mr. and Mrs. Damon were in Sarasota on a business trip after the Christmas holiday, and were the house guests of the John Dubsky family.

In an interview with this writer, Dwight Damon reports he just had the best season ever with the agency, which was originally founded in 1921 by his parents. Appointment as exclusive talent bookers for New England's largest amusement parks, Cavo-bie Lake Park, plus York's Wild Kingdom in York, Maine, and Fantasy Farm in Lincoln, N. H., helped to make '81 a banner year.

Also mentioned by Mr. Damon was the fact they have added greatly to their physical equipment for producing circuses and other shows. This includes a customized 22 foot truck for props and a mobile office.

When asked about the rumor that their country estate in New Hampshire, a lay-over spot favored by many performers, was being sold, Mr. Damon stated that due to the price of oil and increases in property taxes, maintaining a 20 room house in a cold climate had become an unnecessary luxury. Once they have sold the place they plan to look for another place with plenty of room for their friends.

While in Tampa with Bubi Dubksy, Mr. Damon visited the Valenciano home, and also went to Joe's Swiss Chalet, which houses the Buddy L. Tonka Bros. Miniature Circus and Railway Express.

While in Sarasota, the Dubskys had a big party in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Damon, where some 45 guests were invited which included many performers and show folks.

Mr. Damon also commented that they have found the most effective ads to reach performers are those placed in "Circus Report."

HOTLINE

Jan. 6 - TV news reports in Florida stated that Jerry Collins, owner of the Beatty-Cole Circus had given the show to the Florida State University.

An official at the university told a news reporter that the university had all of the circus equipment it needed. However, they agreed to accept the circus with plans that it would be sold.

Then it was reported that John Pugh had purchased the circus from the university and would continue to operate it as a tent circus.

PEOPLE

BILL BURGER recently visited with PERCY TURNER, former circus owner in San Diego, and CHARLES HILL, author of the book "First of May". Bill also served as the auctioneer at the Paul Eagles Luncheon Club's birthday party.

CHARLIE BAUMANN and a tiger were pictured in a story/article about the Ringling Blue Unit which appeared in the Sarasota (Fla) Herald-Tribune on Jan. 1st.

Miscellaneous

Tropicana, the fresh fruit drink found in the grocery store dairy dept., has a TV commercial that features a circus theme and background.

ENGLISH TENT SEASON (Continued)

petitions. This year, for the first time, there were entrants from the USSR and from the Chinese Peoples Republic.

So, this was a season of fluctuating fortunes and there were several sighs of relief when it was all over. We can only wish for better things in 1982.

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PEOPLE

LLOYD G. FENGEL reports that he and his 95 year old friend called **MERLE EVANS** to wish him a Happy Birthday on Dec. 26th at which time they serenaded him, with a piano and violin.

DOROTHY HAMILL, figure skating star, and **DEAN P. MARTIN**, of the U.S. Air Force, were married on Jan. 8th at Beverly Hills, Calif. She plans to continue her guest appearances with Ice Capades.

PHIL KAVANAUGH (Flippo) and **ROSA DOUGLASS** (Chryssi) recently presented 12 shows in three days at the Denver (Colo) Children's Museum.

SEBASTIAN, The Human Target, the man who catches bullets with his teeth, was featured on a show in Pontiac, Mich., Jan. 2-3,

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and will appear in Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 2 to 7th. Later he will serve as ringmaster for the Coronas Circus.

MARK ANTHONY, clown, will be working a series of shopping mall dates this spring, on the east coast.

WEDDING AT THE CIRCUS



by CATHY ROGERS

Doris Schappacher and Russell Charles Smith were united in marriage on Oct. 31st at 5:30 p.m. between performances of the Hetzer International Circus at Louisa, Ky.

The Rev. Dick Humphries from the United Methodist Church of Louisa officiated at the ceremony which was held in the center ring.

The elegance of layered ribbons, white glads, created a display of beauty in the circus ring as the cast surrounded the ring and the wedding party.

As the bride came into the ring on the arm of show owner, James Hetzer, who gave her away, the show organist, Carroll Ellis, played the traditional "Here Comes the Bride."

Staying in the tradition of the circus everyone was in show wardrobe. The bride wore a gold and white jumpsuit trimmed in beaded brocades, ostrich feathers and aurorea stones. The maid of honor, Cathy Rogers, was in her ring mistress tux, the groom wore a white tux, and the best man Jerry Lipko was also in tuxedo wardrobe.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held with food galore, a two tiered wedding cake, and beautiful gifts from the entire circus.

It wasn't long before Coco the Clown, hollared "Doors, Doors" and "the show must go on!"

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure to introduce to you . . . Russell and Doris Smith.

Congratulations!!

The newlyweds had 3 acts on the show, Doris' Kids (African pygmy goats), Yo Yo, (comedy burro) and Princess White Feather, horse act.

SHRINE DATE (Continued)

Sasa; The Flying Fornasaris; Burger's Dog and Pony Revue; Marie France's Yorkshire Terriers; Little John, chair balancing; Jorgens, sword balancing; the Diano elephants; the Nerveless Nocks, sway poles. Music will be directed by Gregory Tosca.

HOTLINE

Jan. 2 - San Antonio, Texas - National rodeo champion Jimmie B. Cooper and his wife were seriously injured in a collision of their pickup truck and another pickup truck on a fog shrouded highway five miles east of San Antonio.

Cooper, a 25-year-old veteran performer who holds the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association's 1981 overall champion honors, and his wife, Sheryl, were returning to their home in Monument, N. M. after having been in competition in Victoria, Texas.

The Sheriff's Dept., reports the Coopers' pickup and attached horse trailer was travelling along fog shrouded U. S. 81 when it and another pickup collided at an intersection just after midnight.

Cooper suffered numerous contusions and abrasions but no critical injuries or broken bones. His wife suffered more serious injuries and was being treated in the intensive care unit of Southeast Baptist Hospital.

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DAVID McMILLAN (Continued)

When the circus super-star makes his grand entrance into the Big Cage, David faces the largest collection of jungle beasts held in a steel cage anywhere in the world. There's 16 Royal Bengal and Siberian tigers, a lion and a black panther. He is also a well-known breeder of tigers, his cats have produced more cubs than any other breeder in the world. At one point, within one month's time, seven cubs were born.

He enters the Steel Cage without the aid of a chair, whip, gun or any of the traditional trademarks of animal training. Instead, David controls his friends with a large dose of love and affection. During his 12 minute show, his pals leap through fire hoops, play leap frog, make incredible jumps and play 'baby' by drinking milk from a bottle. David also rides the back of an African lion, his black panther jumps some 20 ft. into his arms and he bravely places his head into a tiger's mouth. At different times throughout the show he rewards his cats with numerous hugs and kisses.

"The remarkable thing isn't that I put my head into a tiger's mouth - it's that the tiger allows me to put my head into it's mouth," states David. "It takes a deep understanding and a lot of mutual love and respect between animal and trainer before a trick like that can be performed. The key elements are constant care and training. They thrive on affection - just like a person. I've sold my tigers to the audience rather than myself. I want them to see how magnificent and athletic they are, how graceful they move and how beautiful and intelligent they are."

Bravery you ask??? David states it doesn't enter into the picture!!!

"In order to do all these things my animals have to be in good health and have a happy frame of mind" states the handsome trainer. "That requires me to be a father, coach, confidante and friend to them. I give them individual attention constantly. I can spot it immediately if one of them is sick. I have to do everything I can to make that animal feel better."

In order to maintain the constant agility needed to perform his act so precisely, David eats only once a day, just like his cats do. That meal is usually after the last show

BORN TO

BRAUN and SHARON REINHOLD

Cannonball and Aerial Cradle Performers

on

December 27, 1981

A Boy

BRAUNDON MICHAEL REINHOLD

*

8 lbs., 11 oz.

21 in. long

— Born at Home —

PEOPLE

MONTIE MONTANA, Jr. was featured in a special segment filmed on his ranch, showing him riding and performing trick roping routines, just prior to TV's coverage of the annual Rose Parade on Jan. 1st.

BILLY MARTIN has been signed as ringmaster for the 1982 tour of the Great American Circus. He will also do two turns in the show performance.

of the day.

"I am doing a show like no one else have ever done, armed with skill, intelligence, and years of experience in predicting the actions of the cats. It's the things you learn the hard way that you remember. I've paid my dues the hard way and I'm still paying them. The difference is I'm paying them voluntarily."

David, I want to publicly state you are most impressive and that your being modest in saying that bravery has nothing to do with it!!!!

Special Show

The ninth annual Martin Marietta Alumina Christmas Circus was produced by Bob Yerkes, of Northridge, Calif., with the show being presented at the Martin Marietta Facilities Recreation Area on Dec. 20-21 in St. Croix, Virgin Islands.

Austin Miles, author of the book "The Real Ringmaster" handled the announcing chores while clowning was handled by Doug Ashton, Mark Anthony, Mark Yerkes, Chris Bricker and Lorilini (Lori Miles). Clown come-in included Lorilini's popular mechanical girl, a mime classic.

Featured in the show were: Austin Miles, entrance; Doug and Sally Ashton, comedy act; Grey Otter (Skeeter Vaughn) Indian knife and tomahawk throwing, assisted by Karen Price; Clown Boxing Match; Gordan (Roscoe Orman) of the TV show Sesame Street; Lorilini and Austin Miles, speech gag; The Ferges Troupe, comedy paint act and revolving ladder; Clown Band; Bob Top

and Edna, aerial roller skating; and Magician Mark Wilson.

Gordan of Sesame Street and knife thrower Grey Otter got special mentions in the newspaper reviews of the show which were excellent. Special mention should also be made of Bob Top and Edna who, despite the high winds, performed expertly. Music was provided by organ and drums.

Bob Yerkes has been awarded the contract to produce the show again next year on Dec 19-20. He has already signed Ringmaster Austin Miles and Lorilini to return.

While in St. Croix, Virgin Islands, Austin Miles, along with his wife, Valerie, and daughter Lori conducted a charismatic healing service at St. Annes Catholic Church. Approximately 700 people attended the meeting. Miles is well known on the island through his TV appearances on The PTL Club, the 700 Club and the Joe Franklin Show. He received enthusiastic response for the healing service and it is reported that the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International is making arrangements to fly the Miles family back to the island for more meetings.

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Acts

The following acts were set by Rose Adair, of New York City.

Charles Merrill (illusions with French Revue) Chateau Madrid, New York City, Oct. 6-Nov. 16, Lima, Peru, Theatre and Hotel, Nov. 23rd for 8 weeks.

Irene and Tony Fossett, Killer Willard, boxing kangaroo, Christine's Chimpanzees and Irene, Tongo & Co., Radin Variety Tour Dec. 7-16th.

December Christmas Shows: Thaddeus, Clown balloonist/MC, DeLage and Margaret, illusions, Jimmy Ray and Patti, illusions and the Poko Puppets.

Misc.

The School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, at California State University Dominguez Hills, Carson, Calif., has an "Elephant Exhibit" which is being displayed from Jan. 4th to Feb. 4th.

In Memoriam

WILLIAM E. BENTLAGE (89) a professional clown known as "Mr. Bill" died on Dec. 7th at a nursing home in St. Louis, Mo. He was a skilled magician and contortionist and appeared with the Moolah Shrine Circus and the St. Louis Police Circus for years. He could often be found at the entrance to the circus, greeting patrons as they arrived for the performance. For many years he worked with his late wife, Sophie, who was also a clown.



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Holiday Show

Christmas shows were presented at Harrah and Edmond, Okla., last month, both produced by Seymour Davis.

Appearing on the show program were: Joanne Pinson, dogs; David and Sissy Conners, unicycle; Walt Patterson presenting "Mr. Bell"; Sissy Conners, sword balance; Carmen Hall and John, baboons; Walt and Wendy; a local ventriloquist and Santa Claus.

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The Arkansas Traveller

Dittmann Mitchell's obituary appears in this issue of PSN. His fellow announcers had thought the worst during the PRCA convention in January, then his condition seemed to improve. Now he is gone.

Dittmann was one of those bigger-than-life types you hear stories about. There are Harley Tucker stories, Mel Lambert stories, C.T. Jones stories and Dittmann Mitchell stories. They were not repeated in jest, but told by and about him around camp fires, truck stops, rodeo arenas, sale barns and maybe a laundromat or two.

He was a rodeo announcer, publicity man, auctioneer and horse/mule/cow/and-darn-near anything-else trader.

Sometimes he combined his talents. He once cried the dispersal sale for a major stock contracting firm. The company owners had priced the outfit, including most of the contracts to produce rodeos for the next year, but couldn't find any takers. Rumor has it that Dittmann sold the stock and equipment for more than they had asked for the business as a going concern.

He had done everything, been everywhere and knew everyone around circuses, carnivals, fairs, wild animal shows, livestock shows and sales. Once at a prorodeo in the southern part of the country, some of the cowboys decided to take in a Johnny Cash concert and talked Ditt into joining them. About midway through the first set Cash looked down into the audience, spotted Dittmann and, between chorus and verse, found a

spot for, "HELLO, Arkansas Traveller!"

When a circus went broke near Ditt's home town of Fayetteville, he made them an offer. They accepted and Dittmann was the proud owner—lock, stock and small-top (this wasn't exactly Ringling Bros).

He was able to get rid of most of the items, and several months after the sale he had only one thing left—The Official Circus Lion. "There was this mangy old lion, probably 30 if he was a day, didn't have a tooth in his head, but he was trained to growl when the lion tamer pointed a gun at him."

The animal was eating him out of house and home. Dittmann had a chance to get rid of him, so he got Muscles Pearson and a couple of other guys to help him stuff the beast into the trunk of his car and took off. This took place during prohibition, and the cops were on the look-out for people transporting illegal whiskey. Dittmann was pulled over by a deputy in northern Arkansas.

"He asked me what I had in the trunk. I told him, 'A lion.' He thought I was carryin' 'shine for sure. He pulled out his gun and walked around to the back of the car. I said, 'Officer, I wouldn't do that if I were you.' He jerked the trunk open, pointed the pistol in there and Leo said RRRRROOOAAARRR!!!, thinking he would get a reward for remembering his line. That cop threw down the gun, jumped in his car and darn near tore it apart turning around to leave."

Yeah, Dittmann loved to tell stories. It was the swapper's creed, leave 'em laughing.

He did.—□

The above item is from the Rodeo Sport News and was sent in by Bradd Frank, who is planning a book about Det's life. Anyone who has information about his rodeo life can write to Bradd Frank, P. O. Box 668, Crescent City, Fla. 32012.